

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

APPLICATION FOR A MINING RIGHT AND INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS

MMAKAU COAL (PTY) LTD: FARM SCHURVEKOP 227 IS, BETHAL, MPUMALANGA

REF: MP30/5/1/2/2/10366MR

1. INTRODUCTION

Mmakau Coal (Pty) Ltd has submitted an application for a mining right in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) over Portions 6, 8, RE15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the farm Schurvekop 227 IS.

The proposed mining right area comprises +696.57 hectares and is located approximately 20km north of the town of Bethal, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (MP307), Mpumalanga (Figure 1).

This application for a mining right is subject to an application for an Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 59 of 2008 (NEMWA).

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to complete the necessary environmental applications and public participation process.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide you, the Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with information on the proposed project and the associated environmental authorisation process.

You are hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information you feel may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP. Alternatively call us on Tel: 011 794 7534 or complete a form online at www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mineral:	Coal
Mining Method:	Underground bord-&-pillar
Depth of mining:	60m below surface
Life of Mine:	+14 years

The underground will be accessed via a boxcut adit. It is proposed that the boxcut, plant and associated mine infrastructure be located on Portion 8 of the farm Schurvekop 227 IS, owned by the applicant (Figures 2 and 3).

Coal will be transferred from the underground to surface by means of a conveyor belt. Whereby, it will be sent to the plant area for processing (crushing, screening and washing).

Mine residue from the plant will be disposed of onto an integrated disposal dump.

Product coal will be sized and stockpiled in designated areas for pre-qualification prior to being trucked to market.

It is currently anticipated that the plant will run 24/7.

Service Requirements:

- Electricity for the operation will be sourced from Eskom (10MVA required).
- Process water will initially be sourced from rain water and onsite borehole, thereafter (once steady state production is reached) the process water will be sourced from the underground workings.
- It is envisaged that potable/domestic water will be sourced from boreholes on site.
- General waste will be collected for disposal at the Municipal dump.
- Industrial waste will be collected for disposal at a suitably licensed facility.
- Sewage will be collected within conservancy tanks to be emptied by honey sucker for treatment at a suitably licensed facility.

Alternatively a small, package sewage plant will be installed on site.

Employment:

- The project will create employment for approximately 279 people.

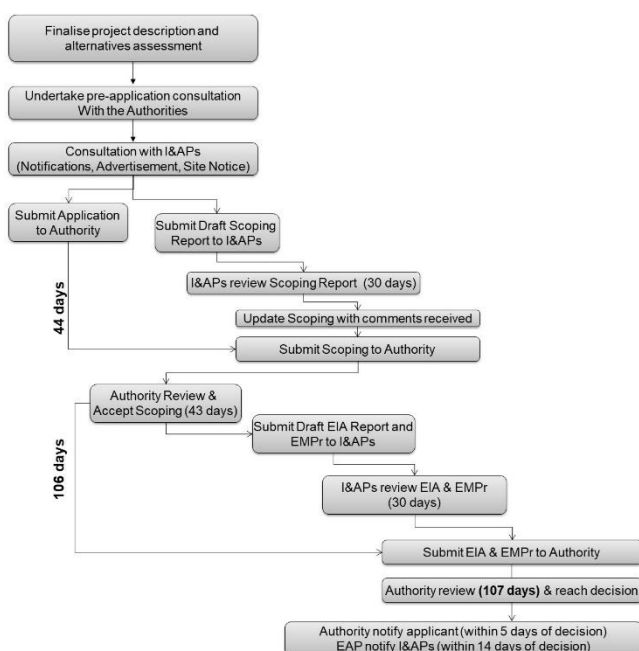
4. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Mmakau Coal (Pty) Ltd has submitted an integrated application for environmental authorisation for the proposed operations to the competent authority – being the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

Following the submission of an application for an environmental authorisation the applicant is required to subject the application to either a Basic Assessment or a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

During this process the positive and negative impacts associated with the development are assessed; and suitable alternatives and/or management measures are proposed to reduce the environmental impacts.

As the application relates to mining activities (Listing Notice 2), a full Scoping and EIA process will be followed. The steps in this process are briefly outlined below:



The Scoping and EIA/EMP reports will be compiled in the format prescribed by the DMRE, in accordance with NEMA and NEMWA (integrated application).

The overall timeframe for the environmental authorisation process is approximately 300 days as regulated by NEMA.

Once the DMRE has reached a decision on the application, all registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome. The notification will also include details of the available appeal process.

5. LISTED ACTIVITIES

The following table summarises the activities identified in terms of NEMA and NEMWA, for which an application has been submitted:

- **GNR 983, Listing Notice No. 1:** Activity No's 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 24, 30, 56
- **GNR 984, Listing Notice No. 2:** Activity No's 6, 15, 17
- **GNR 985, Listing Notice No. 3:** Activity No's 2, 4, 12, 14, 18
- **GNR 921, Category B:** Activity 7, 9, 10, 11
- **GNR 921, Category C:** Activity 1, 2

6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified and will be assessed further during the environmental authorisation process:

- Potential to alter the topography
- Loss of soil characteristics - erosion and compaction
- Change in land use from farming to mining
- Loss of biodiversity and species of conservation concern - vegetation clearance and habitat destruction
- Potential for alien invasive establishment
- Reduced flow to downstream water catchment
- Potential pollution to water resources (surface and groundwater)
- Drawdown cone from dewatering activities (groundwater quantity)
- Increased dust and emissions
- Increased noise levels
- Visual aesthetics and sense of place will be altered

- Damage to property/infrastructure from blast events
- Potential damage to heritage sites (grave and/or archaeological artefacts)
- Influx of job seekers to the area
- Increased traffic – coal haulage

A number of specialist studies were completed for the project between 2017 – 2019, these will be reviewed and updated where necessary. These include:

- Air quality impact assessment;
- Blasting and vibration assessment;
- Freshwater Ecology;
- Terrestrial Ecology;
- Soils, land use and land capability;
- Groundwater assessment;
- Heritage and palaeontology; and
- Traffic impact assessment.

Additional studies proposed for the project, include:

- Health Impact Assessment;
- Visual Impact Assessment; and
- Noise Impact Assessment.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the environmental process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that affect them. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing us to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

8. INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

The Reader is invited to participate in the Application process, by registering as an I&AP. As a Registered I&AP you will be kept informed of the Application processes, invited to review and comment on draft reports as they become available. Furthermore, all comments received from I&APs will be included in the relevant reports, and addressed throughout the process.

To register please complete the attached questionnaire.

Public review of the Scoping Report will commence on 08 August 2022- 07 September 2022 (30 days). Copies of the Scoping Reports can be found at the Bethal Public Library and/or online at www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za under the Public Participation Tab.

Please send all comments on or before 07 September 2022.

For more information on the project please contact:

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2142

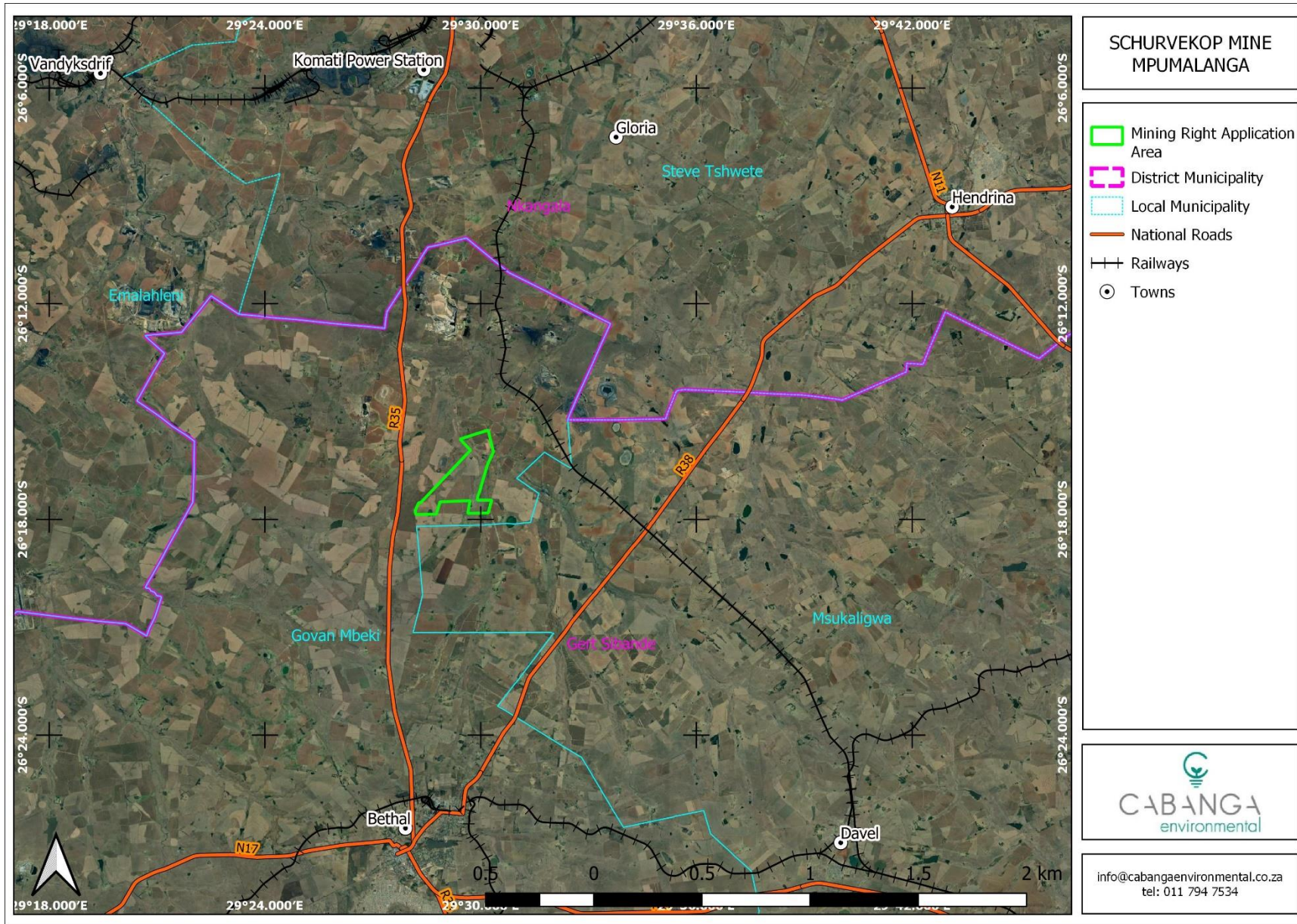


Figure 1: Regional Plan

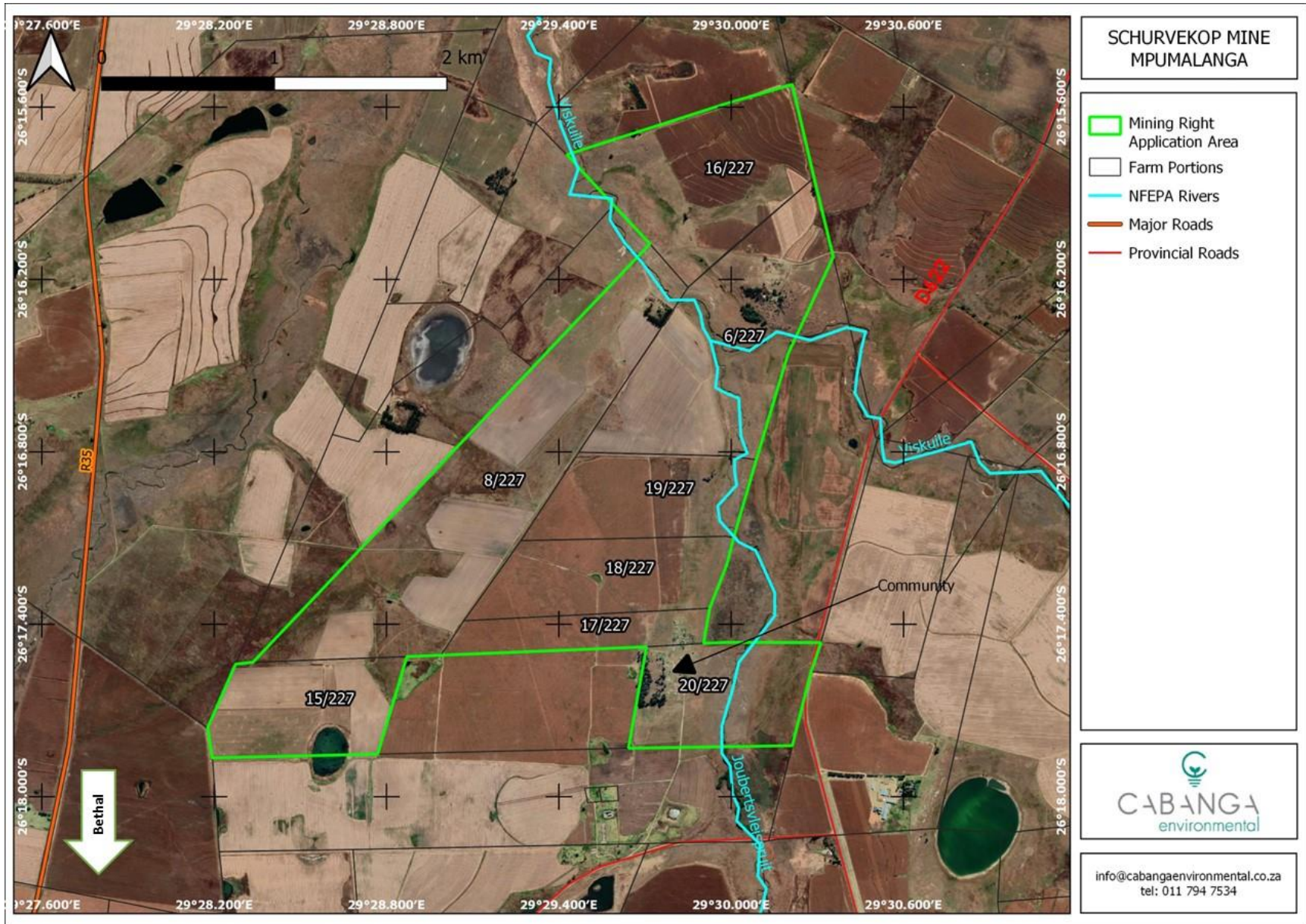


Figure 2: Locality Plan

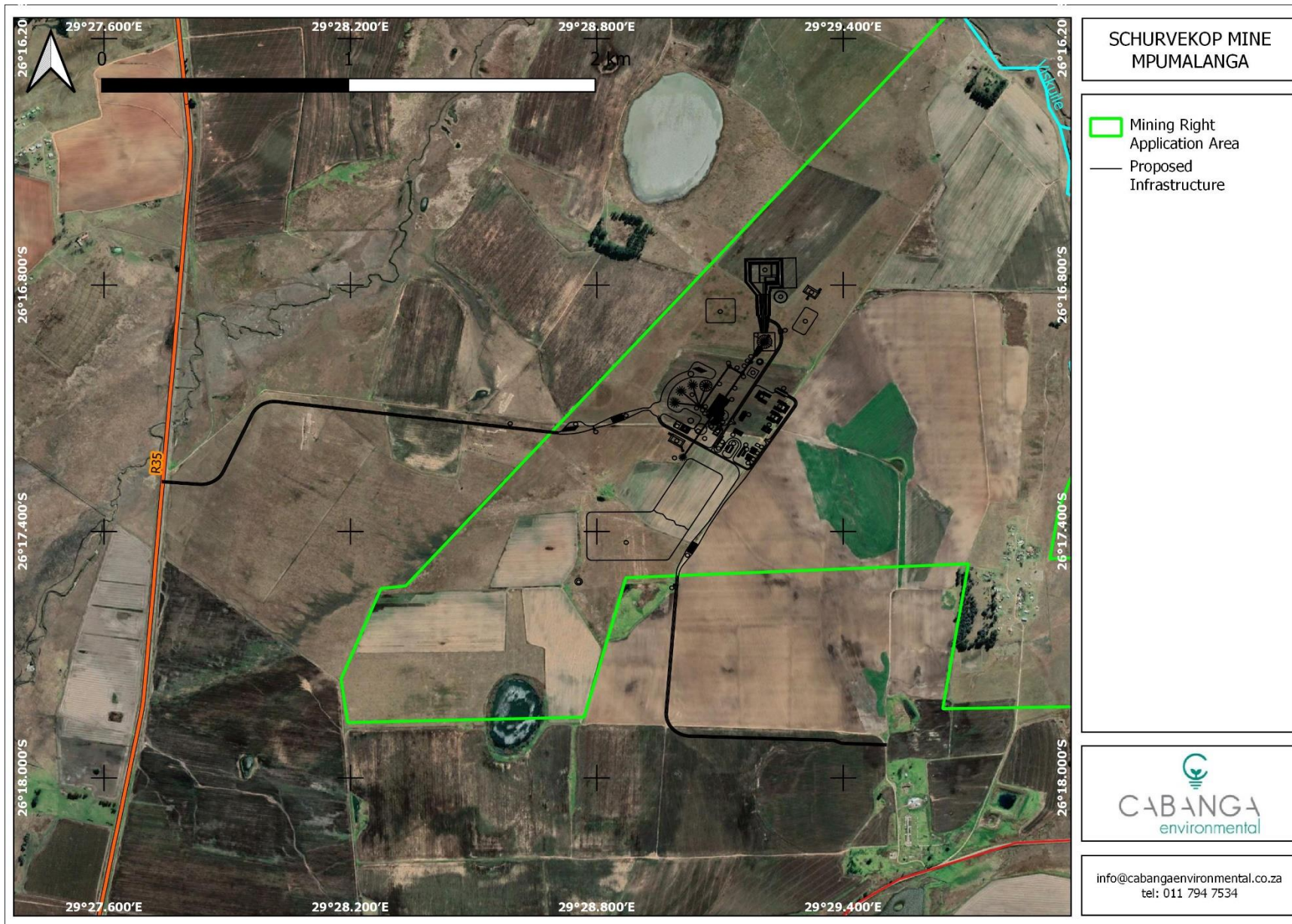


Figure 3: Proposed Layout

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE:
MMAKAU COAL (PTY) LTD: FARM SCHURVEKOP 227 IS, BETHAL, MPUMALANGA
REF: MP30/5/1/2/2/10366MR

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail, fax or post:

Fax: (011) 794 6946 info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za; Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162		Alternatively, please register on www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za click on "Public Participation"	
Name:		Surname:	
Telephone No.:		Fax No.:	
Post:			
E-mail:			
How would you prefer to be contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS		
Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the project? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project? If yes, please elaborate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified?			
Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.)			
Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose?			
Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries? (please feel free to submit separate sheets if there insufficient space)			
As per the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act do you give Cabanga consent to use your name in the reports that will be submitted to the Competent Authority as well as for public review?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
As per the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act do you give Cabanga consent to use your contact details in order to send you public participation notifications pertaining to the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		